

1. A carton storage medium comprising:
a plurality of cartons in collapsed condition disposed in an imbricated configuration.

2. The invention of claim 1, wherein said plurality of cartons in collapsed
condition are disposed in an imbricated coil.

3. The invention of claim 1, further comprising means for stabilizing said
imbricated configuration.

4. The invention of claim 3, wherein said means for stabilizing said imbricated
configuration comprises said plurality of cartons in collapsed condition
disposed over a substantially flat elongated member.

5. The invention of claim 4, wherein said substantially flat elongated member
is selected from the group consisting of a tape, band or belt.

6. A method for storing cartons, the method comprising:
disposing a plurality of cartons of collapsed condition in a continuous imbricated
configuration.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said plurality of cartons of collapsed
condition are disposed in a continuous imbricated coil.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said plurality of cartons of a collapsed
condition are disposed along a length of a substantially flat elongated
member.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said substantially flat elongated member is
selected from the group consisting of a tape, band or belt.

10. A method for feeding cartons into a cartoning machine, the method
comprising the steps of :

providing a stream of imbricated collapsed cartons;

removing individual cartons from the stream; and

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erecting the cartons that have been removed from the stream.

11. The method of claim 10, including the step of counteracting a curl that may have been imparted to the imbricated collapsed cartons.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of counteracting a curl comprises passing the cartons through a series of at least one roller mechanism that imparts a reverse curl to the cartons.

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13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of counteracting a curl comprises drawing the cartons across a curved surface having a variable radius so as to impart a reverse curl to the cartons.

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14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of counteracting a curl comprises passing the cartons through a framework having a corkscrew-like configuration so as to impart a reverse curl to the cartons.

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15. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of counteracting a curl comprises passing the cartons through a multi-wheeled carton erector so as to impart a reverse curl to the cartons.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein each wheel revolves in a direction counter to its adjacent wheel.

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17. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of claim 15 is preceded by placing the cartons in upright condition in a gathering compartment.